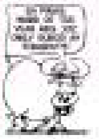
ENTERTAINMENT / J4
Tom Cruise: Kate and I will have more children

LIFESTYLE / H3
Last-minute Christmas shopping from Greenhills to Alabang

NEWS / A3
Soldier-diplomat peacemaker Manuel Yan dies; 88

WORLD / A28
Mumbai bombs found week after deadly, 3-day attack

'Bailout' declared word of the year



WASHINGTON—Reflecting what's on the minds of Americans, "bailout" and "socialism" beat "maverick" in a US dictionary's word of the year contest.

BAILOUT A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, December 5, 2008 ★ Vol. 23 / No. 181

Businessmen warn solons on Cha-cha

By Dorin L. Lucas

THE MAKATI BUSINESS CLUB (MBC) is standing firmly against moves to amend the 1987 Constitution and is warning administration lawmakers not to "underestimate the people."

According to MBC executive director Alberto Lim, the business community represented by his group has drawn "a line in the sand" on the issue of Charter

BUSINESSMEN A17

Cardinal joins snowballing opposition to Con-ass

By Dona Pazzibugan, Kristine L. Alave and Leila B. Salaverria

THE USUALLY LOW-KEY MANILA Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales yesterday spoke up to denounce the renewed plan of administration allies in the House of Representatives to amend the 1987 Constitution by themselves through a constituent assembly (Con-ass).

In an interview with the Church-run Radio Veritas, Rosales said the job of amending the Charter could not be entrusted to those in power because of their vested interests.

"Who should do the work? Not those in power or those in Congress. Why? Because they are the ones to be affected. They shouldn't do it," he said in Filipino.

The cardinal also expressed opposition to the proposal of some administration allies to postpone the May 2010 national elections and extend the terms of office of all elected officials, including President Macapagal-Arroyo, while a new Constitution is being drafted.

"Sometimes people would toy with the idea. But it can't be allowed. Let's not tempt those in government and the people to set aside the elections. We should follow the law—that there should be elections in 2010," Rosales said.

Also on Radio Veritas, Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, the president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), called on Ms Arroyo to order her allies in the House to desist

CARDINAL A20



CARDINAL ROSALES

'I'm ready for King Kong'



FOCUSED, PREPARED The "Pacman" says of his bout with De La Hoya, which he calls a "dream match," perhaps due to the fact that it is expected to generate $100 million to be divided between the two fighters—with De La Hoya taking in 60 percent.

De La Hoya: I'll knock out Pacquiao

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

LAS VEGAS—OSCAR De La Hoya is not letting his edge in height and weight lull him into thinking that, when he climbs the ring against Manny Pacquiao on Saturday, he'll be simply bullying a shrimp of a kid in a schoolyard.

"I prepared for King Kong," De La Hoya told reporters on Wednesday, adding his fight with the Filipino was the kind likely to end in a knockout.

Fight time is around 9 p.m. Saturday Las Vegas time, or about 1 p.m. Sunday in Manila. (For predfight updates and coverage of the fight, please go to www.inquirer.net)

"We can either box, we can either brawl or we can even counterpunch him," De La Hoya said.

"I would be disappointed if I don't stop him because this type of fight calls for a knockout," the 35-year-old, six-division champion and former Olympic gold medalist added.

"[In] this type of fight, you get two fighters who are going to fight. If Manny Pacquiao hits me with a good shot, hey, let's fight. I'm going to bite into my mouthpiece and let's fight."

De La Hoya even made a play on his own name during an interview following their final prefight press conference, which lasted close to two hours.

"When you want to win an Oscar (award), you'll do anything you can to win an Oscar," De La Hoya said. "That's what they've done. They jumped up two weight classes and they're looking for that Oscar."

And it will be an Oscar ready

I'M READY A22



"GOLDEN Boy" Oscar De La Hoya seems to be taunting his opponent at the final press conference at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas before his much-awaited welterweight match with Filipino idol Manny Pacquiao on Dec. 6, which reportedly could hasten the American boxer's exit from the ring.

Bolante detained in Senate basement

By Christine O. Avendaño and Miko Morelos

"LEAVE US ALONE."

Upon the request of Jocelyn "Jocjoc" Bolante, the Senate security group yesterday told media to stop taking pictures and interviewing the former agriculture undersecretary and his family during his detention.

It was unclear exactly where in the Senate building Bolante was being held after he was cited in contempt and ordered arrested for allegedly lying eight times during the

BOLANTE A11

Power cost in Metro going down, but water rates up

By Abigail L. Ho and Amy R. Remo

POWER RATES IN METRO MANILA AND nearby provinces will go down this month, but water rates in a large swath of the metropolis may go up starting January.

Customers of the Lopez-led Manila Electric Co. will enjoy an early Christmas treat as the distribution utility's rates go down by about 48 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh) this month.

This means that consumers using 200 kWh of electricity a month would see their December bills go down by P96.

Meralco said the reduction in its generation charge was due to the lower cost of power from two power plants were using.

POWER COST A15

Mountaineers embark on new adventure

By Erika Sauler

AFTER SENDING THE FIRST FILIPINOS to the summit of the world's highest peak, the leader of the first Philippine expedition team to Mt. Everest is embarking on another epic adventure—to navigate the waters of the archipelagic areas of Asia as the early Filipinos did on a replica of a balangay, a precolonial boat.

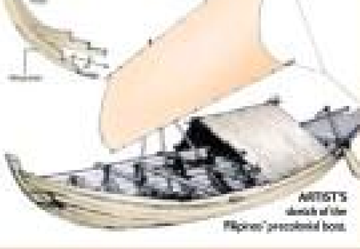
The same Mt. Everest team will steer the balangay around the Philippines in 2009, then proceed to Southeast Asia in 2010 and on to Madagascar off Africa in 2011. It will sail the natural way—by adhering to celestial navigation, observing the migration of birds, cloud formation and waves.

"We would build a boat the way it was, sail it the way it was and trace the migration routes of the Austronesian-speaking people," says Art Valdez, head of Kaya ng Pinoy, a group that pushes for projects that uphold national pride.

The "Voyage of the Balangay" was unveiled yesterday at Mandarin Oriental in Makati City together with the launching of Valdez's coffee table book "Like the Dream: The Saga of the Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition Team."

"How will this (balangay project) relate to the Filipino? Just like the Everest, this is a way of showing what you can achieve when you believe in yourself and put your heart into it," Valdez says in an

MOUNTAINEERS A11



ARTIST'S sketch of the Filipinos' precolonial boat.

RP joins 43 island states to fight global warming

POZNAN, POLAND—THE PHILIPPINES HAS joined a group of 43 small island states calling for tougher goals for fighting global warming than those being considered at UN climate talks, saying that rising seas could wipe them off the map.

Bernaditas Muller of the Philippines said a rise of 2.0 Celsius would wipe out a third of the territory of her country.

"We are not prepared to sign a suicide agreement that causes small island states to disappear," Selwin Hart of Barbados, a coordinator of the alliance of small island states, told Reuters at the 187-nation meeting.

RP JOINS A21

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FrontPage

SIX DIGIT

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SUERTRES

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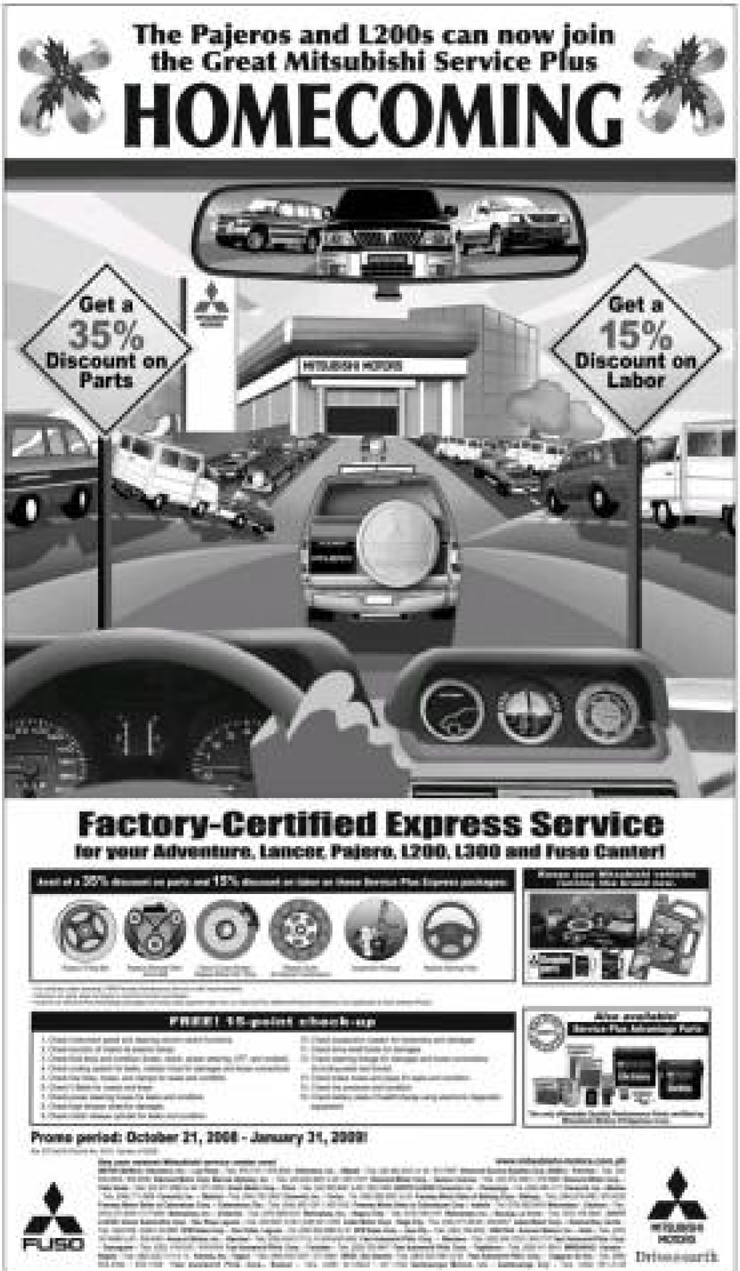
6 6 13 16

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

1 3 12 34 32 40

P127,904,022.00

Extra bonus for gov't workers



By TJ Burgonio

SUDDENLY, THE COMING HOLiday is looking much brighter for state workers.

Golez wants centavo retired

Yan, soldier, diplomat, peacemaker, dies; 88

PRESIDENTIAL Adviser on the Peace Process Gen. Manuel T. Yan died yesterday at Medical City Hospital in Pasig City. He was 88.

Yan had served the country for 60 years under 11 presidents—from Manuel Quezon to Joseph Estrada—30 years in the military, 21 years in the foreign service, and seven years in peace negotiations with Muslim leaders.

With the rank of general, he was the youngest chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, serving from May 28, 1968 till January 24, 1972.

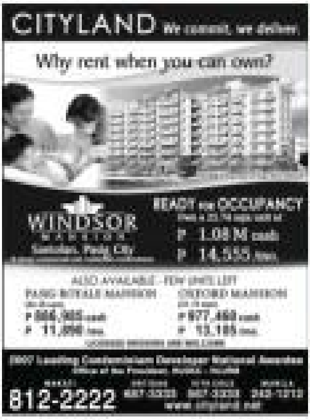
Upon retirement from the Armed Forces, Yan was appointed ambassador to Thailand from 1972 till 1981, then as ambassador to Indonesia from 1981 till 1987. He was assigned as Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs from 1987 till 1991 and was designated ambassador to the Court of St. James's in London from 1991 till 1992.

Leaving the foreign service in November 1992, Yan was appointed Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process with the rank of a Cabinet member from 1992 till 2008.

He is survived by his children [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible].

The body lies in Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills in San Juan City.

After a 9 a.m. Mass on Sunday at St. Ignatius Cathedral in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Yan will be buried at noon at Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City.







Bangkok flights to resume

[illegible]

RP workers recall brush with Bangkok protesters

Nothing unusual







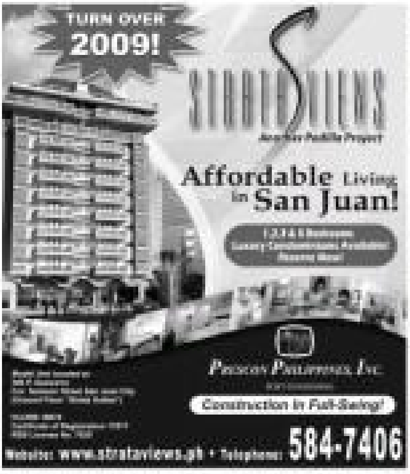
Rains may linger longer

Banks say they still lend to firms with good record

Tough times

Indigenous, clean

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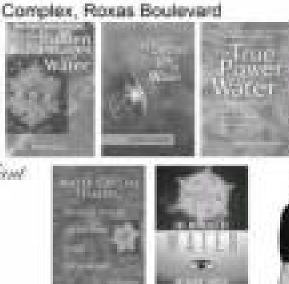


Date : 6th December 2008

Time : 2:00pm to 5:00pm

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Venue : Philippines International Convention Center
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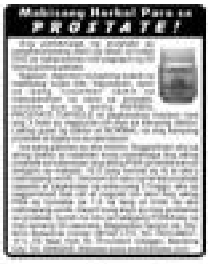
Suspected terrorist bomb maker charged

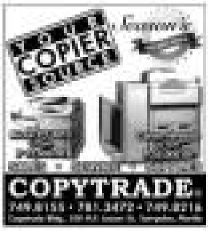


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RP bet for Oscars gets campaign fund

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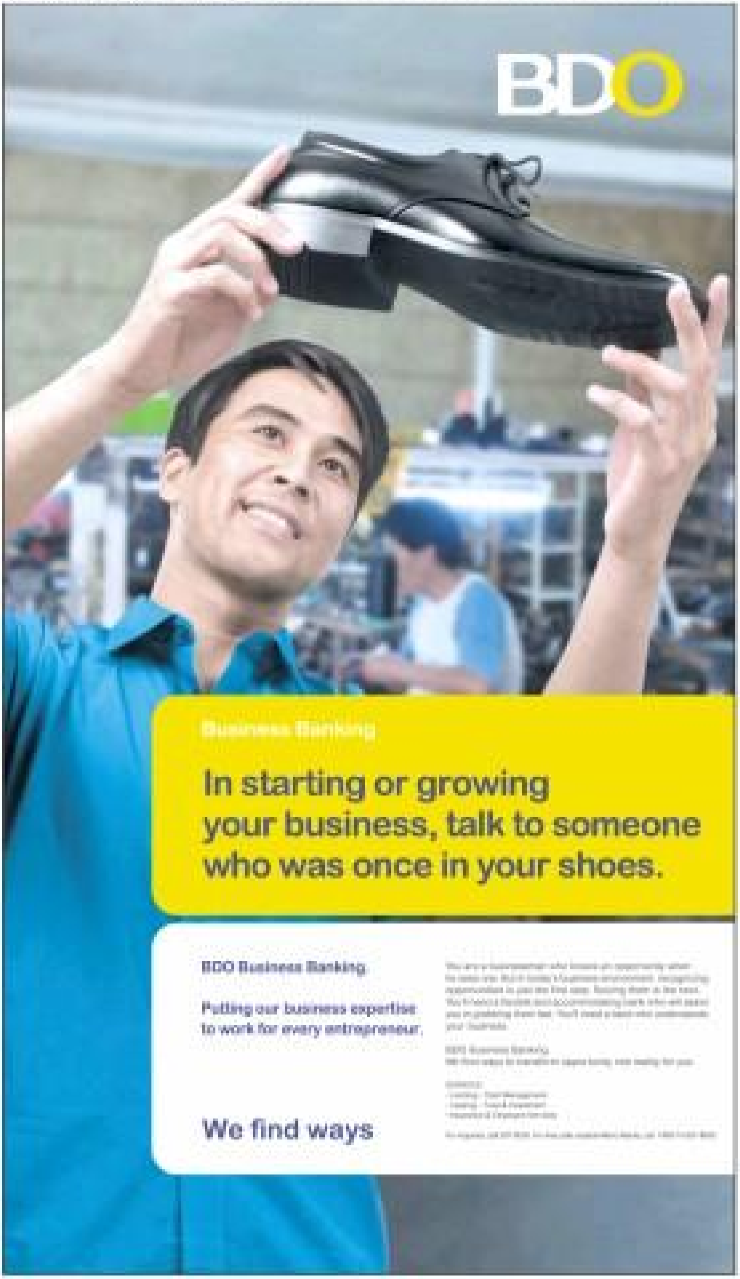




British MP hits Church on population

'Green' lantern at Senate

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Bolante detained in Senate basement

From page A1

past three hearings of the blue ribbon committee looking into the P728-million fertilizer scam.

Reporters yesterday attempted but were not allowed to see the alleged brains behind the diversion of government money intended for farmers to President Macapagal-Arroyo's 2004 election campaign.

Sen. Richard Gordon, blue ribbon committee chair, said that Bolante would be confined in the clinic, but Sergeant at Arms Jose Balajadia said the star witness was in the basement, where those who had run afoul of the chamber had usually been confined.

"His request was no lenses or phones for the ... and that there will be no media," Balajadia said. "They don't want to be seen on television and they don't want to be seen in the newspapers."

He told reporters that the 57-year-old Bolante then was having lunch with his wife Carol, one relative and his aide.

"He is like in a four-star detention center," Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri said, quoting Balajadia.

Bolante was arrested on Wednesday night by the Senate security team at the office of his lawyers in Makati City.

He was allowed to see his wife, who reportedly suffered a mild stroke upon learning of his predicament, in his swank home at Ayala Alabang and have dinner there before he was taken past midnight to the Senate.

'Liar, liar, liar!'

A woman driving a blue sedan stopped in front of Bolante's house, where reporters and security men gathered outside at around 10 p.m., rolled down the window of her car and yelled, "Liar, liar, liar!"

"We're not here to humiliate you," said Gordon, who received Bolante at the Senate. "You're here to testify properly and tell the truth ... We're sorry that this had to happen, but it's part of the law."

Bolante nodded, keeping his silence.

"Not only am I convinced, but also the committee is also convinced that he appears to be lying," Gordon later told reporters.

The arrest order against Bolante stipulated that he will be detained until he purges himself of contempt or until the Ombudsman or the Justice department files a case against him for false testimony.

"If he starts telling the truth, if he stops being evasive and decides to answer our questions frankly and in all honesty then he would save himself from long detention here at the Senate," Gordon said.

That chance to tell all could be on Monday, when the committee resumes its hearing.

He won't be home for Christmas

Malacañang steered clear of the Senate's action.

"Obviously Bolante and his family will be separated this Christmas. Just the same, he had to face it. We respect the decision of the Senate. They have good reason for doing this," Undersecretary Lorelei Fajardo said.

Bolante returned to Manila on Oct. 28 after a two-year detention in the United States.

US authorities canceled his visa and held him while he unsuccessfully pursued an application for political asylum, saying his life was threatened if he returned home.

Bolante disappeared in 2005 after he was summoned by the Senate, which subsequently issued a warrant for his arrest.

The warrant was served on his return, but Bolante requested that he undergo medical examination and was whisked from the airport to St. Luke's Medical Center where he remained for 15 days before he was finally brought to the Senate to testify.

Bolante was permitted to go home under the Senate's protective custody after his testimony.

But on Wednesday, the blue ribbon committee decided to enforce the arrest warrant after finding him in contempt for "continued evasiveness, continuous contradictions and lies."

Less than 24 hours under Senate detention, Bolante was apparently taking it all well.

Joc-joc jokes

"He's OK. He's quite bubbly. He jokes," was how Balajadia described Bolante.

Likewise, Bolante seemed quite comfortable at the Senate basement, the sergeant at arms said.

Having brought his own pillow and blanket, Bolante has not requested anything from the Senate. Balajadia said that the Senate would provide Bolante a doctor and an ambulance as well as 24-hour air conditioning.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, who was at the Senate yesterday to assist the approval of his department's budget proposal for 2009, said he would not visit Bolante.

"We also have to follow the rules here. Only the family and lawyers can see him," Yap told reporters.

Yap was asked about the blue ribbon committee's vow to look into the case of slain journalist Marlyn Esperat, who had filed a case against him and Bolante in 2003 for the alleged overpricing of P400-million worth of fertilizer in Mindanao.

"I don't want to say it's a waste of time but it's been passed upon. The Ombudsman had already investigated it," he said.

But if called upon by the Senate to testify, Yap said he would show evidence that Esperat's claims were "baseless, unfounded and malicious." *With a report from TJ Burgonio*



MIDNIGHT VISITOR Sen. Richard Gordon (right) escorts Agriculture Undersecretary Joc-joc Bolante (above) to the Senate after his arrest at his lawyer's office and (below) as he arrives at the Senate in Pasay City shortly after midnight Thursday.





SPY PLANE DOWN The MILF handed out a photo on Dec. 4 showing what they claim is a US unmanned reconnaissance aircraft which was reportedly shot down on Nov. 14 in Talayan town in Maguindanao. The photograph was reportedly taken on Nov. 14, 2008. American troops are providing military assistance including intelligence to the Armed Forces of the Philippines who are fighting Moro rebels and Abu Sayyaf militants in the South.


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INQUIRER

OPINION

Immaturity

EDITORIAL

Bailout criteria

FOREIGN COMMENT



Amend Charter provisions one at a time

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

People power: 'adobo' and 'pad thai' versions

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

'Judicial coup' ousts Thai premier



ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

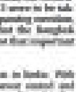
Silver lining in Thailand



AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

Collecting



LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

'Hangin'



PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

LETTERS

Impeachment bid as a grand annual sale



—RAMON BATTGA

Food agency employees facing food insecurity

Neglected Tawi-Tawi needs government help

Plant 23 trees to mark PDI's 23rd anniversary

LTFRB should regulate the sale of taxi meters

Mayor, 3 bodyguards killed

TUGUEGARAO CITY—THE MAYOR OF RIZAL, CAGAYAN, AND three of his security escorts were killed while four others were wounded after they were attacked by armed men in Solano town on Wednesday night, police said.

NEWSBRIEFS

■ TAGUM CITY

2 sprayer planes crash

■ DAVAO ORIENTAL

Land mine wounds 3

■ CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna

Cell site attack foiled

■ EVENTS

Gaming firm sends help

■ BAGUIO CITY

Fund-raising for sick kids



FRENZY

Hanjin resumes $2-B shipyard plan in Misamis

WHAT WENT BEFORE

CamSur: From 39th to 10th richest province

Mountaineers embark on new adventure

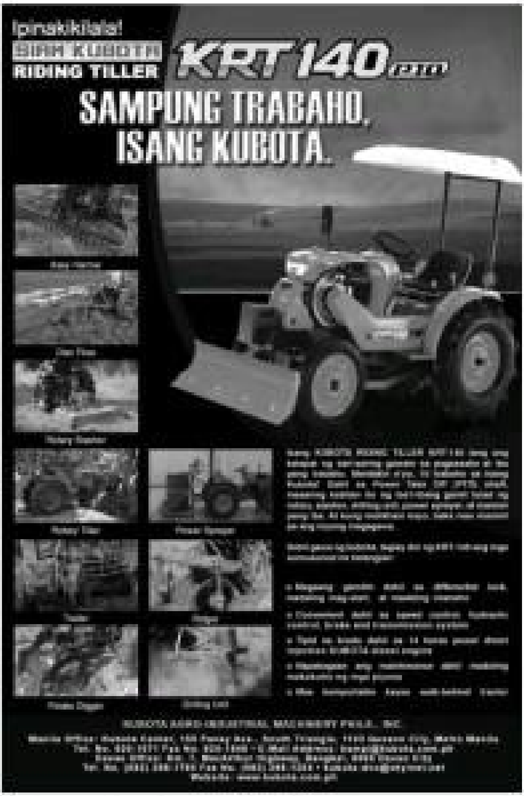
Badjao boat builders

Trade winds

Public can join voyage

Rousing national pride

'Bailout' declared word of the year





Cardinal joins snowballing opposition to Con-ass



No dialogue on Cha-cha, says Palace exec

By TJ Burgonio





Businessmen warn solons on Cha-cha

AFP to air Pacquiao fight live and for free inside camp

By Jocelyn R. Uy

Old friends

'I'm ready for King Kong'

A place in history

Odds won't matter

$100-million purse

Pay-per-view

Pacquiao's dream

Focused, prepared

What's in a name? Ask Chavit

By Francis T. J. Ochoa

Last-minute replacement

Sure blockbuster



RP joins 43 island states to fight global warming

Common temperature goal

Maldives partly inundated

Plan to cut US emissions

Power cost down but water bills going up

From page A1

Part of the savings of households from lower power rates may just be eaten by a rise in water rates next month.

At a public consultation yesterday on rate rebasing, Maynilad Water Services Inc., the concessionaire in the west zone, said it was planning to increase the average all-in rate by P[illegible] per cubic meter.

Maynilad said the adjustment was necessary for its new capital expenditures.

4 customer types

Average all-in tariff refers to the mean of all the rates plus add-on costs related to Maynilad's four customer types—residential, semibusiness, commercial and industrial.

This tariff is usually adjusted every five years by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and the water concessionaires through a process called rate rebasing.

In rate rebasing, water concessionaires are asked to update the service improvement plan for customers and evaluate the required capital investment in the near future.

If approved, households in the west zone using 30 cubic meters monthly will have to pay an additional P[illegible] for a monthly bill of P[illegible]. This translates to an increase of P[illegible] a day.

Households using 20 cu. m. monthly will have to shell out an additional P[illegible], equivalent to P[illegible] a day, for a monthly bill of P[illegible].

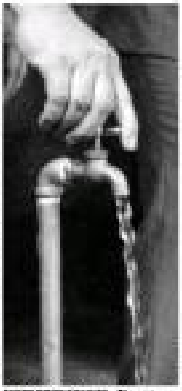
The west zone concession area covers a total of [illegible] square kilometers consisting of 11 cities in Metro Manila and one city and five towns in Cavite province.

These are the cities of Pasay, Caloocan, Las Piñas, Parañaque, Valenzuela, Muntinlupa, Manila (except portions of San Andres and Sta. Ana), some parts of Makati and Quezon City, Malabon and Navotas—all in Metro Manila; and Cavite City and the towns of Bacoor, Imus, Noveleta, Rosario and Kawit in Cavite province.

The east zone concessionaire is Manila Water.

Banked gas

At a briefing yesterday, Ivanna de la Peña, Meralco vice president and utility economics chief, said the reduction in the generation charge component of the company's rates this month was due to the use of "banked gas" by the 1,000-megawatt (MW) Sta. Rita and 500-MW San Lorenzo gas-fired power plants.



EVERY DROP COUNTS The new Maynilad rates will go to capital expenditures.

Of the natural gas used in November, banked gas accounted for 50 percent of Sta. Rita's consumption and 60 percent of San Lorenzo's, De la Peña said.

"Natural gas that was contracted but not consumed in a certain year is 'banked' for future use. Every year, after the contracted quantities are consumed, the natural gas plants start to utilize banked gas," she said.

De la Peña said the "cost of banked gas is more than 50 percent lower than the cost of the high-priced natural gas that was responsible for the increase in the generation charge for November 2008."



SEASON OF LIGHTS Lower Meralco rates are most welcome in December, a time when the entire city can't have enough of lights.

The banked gas comprised natural gas that was not consumed in 2002 to 2005 and was priced much lower. Natural gas prices were benchmarked against oil prices and moved with the prevailing six months' average basket of fuel prices as specified in the contract with the gas seller—in this case the Malampaya consortium.

Generation charge

Meralco's generation charge in November went up by 30 centavos per kWh as the cost of natural gas for December was set using average prices from April to September, which included peak levels in May to July.

De la Peña earlier said that the cost of natural gas alone made up as much as 75 percent of what Meralco paid to independent power producer (IPP) First Gas Power Corp., which operated the Sta. Rita and San Lorenzo plants. First Gas Power Corp. is also owned by the Lopez family.

"In December, the two plants will continue to use banked gas, so we expect this (downward price) trend to continue up to January. Last month's increase in generation charge was only temporary," she said.

The use of banked gas by the Sta. Rita and San Lorenzo plants reduced Meralco's overall IPP rate by more than P[illegible] per kWh. The cost of power from National Power Corp., on the other hand, went down by 17 centavos per kWh.

However, the price of power purchased from the wholesale electricity spot market jumped P[illegible] per kWh in the November billing month.

De la Peña said this did not have much of an impact on Meralco's overall generation charge as the distribution utility got only [illegible] percent of its November supply requirements from the electricity bourse.

The bulk of the power firm's supply requirements, or [illegible] percent, came from its IPPs. Napocor accounted for the remaining [illegible] percent of Meralco's electricity supply in November, she said.

Maynilad president Rogelio Singson said the rate increase, to be implemented over the next five years, would be used to help fund capital spending.

Next year, Maynilad has earmarked P[illegible] billion for capital expenditures to meet its "continuing goal of improving water pressure and availability in the west zone," Singson said.

This allocation is [illegible] lower than what Maynilad initially earmarked for next year. Earlier, Maynilad said it would set aside P[illegible] billion in cap expenditures for 2009, P[illegible] billion for 2010, P[illegible] billion for 2011, and P[illegible] billion for 2012.

Water lost to leaks

Among Maynilad's capital expenditures next year are programs for the management of nonrevenue water (NRW) or water lost due to leaks and illegal connections; upgrading of facilities and replacement of primary lines; implementation of wastewater treatment projects; and development of new water sources.

Without citing specific figures, Singson said the bulk of Maynilad's capital spending next year would go to the NRW Management and [illegible] program.

He said the program would involve major pipeline replacements to facilitate the recovery of NRW for possible delivery to areas with low supply. The program also includes the upgrading of pumping stations and reservoirs to increase water pressure along the mainline and allow better control of supply through timely storage and release of water.

Muntinlupa treatment plant

To further boost water supply in the southern part of the concession, Maynilad is eyeing the development of the Muntinlupa water treatment plant to produce 100 million liters a day. The plant will get its supply from the Laguna Lake for distribution to underserved areas.

With the massive projects, Maynilad said it would be able to provide 98 percent coverage of the west zone with 24-hour water service at seven psi—the average water pressure at pounds per square inch—by the end of 2012.


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Prepaid Internet on-the-go!
P2,500
Napakarami pang Postpaid, Broadband at phone kit offers para sa inyo!
Kaya mas madali ngayon maging
CONNECTED 24EVER

A plus METRO

Mom, son slain in this house

Killers ignore security at gated Parañaque subdivision

NOT EVEN A GATED SUBDIVISION IN PARAÑAQUE City could protect a mother and her 8-year-old son, who were hogtied and killed inside their home by alleged robbers Wednesday night.



A CAMERAMAN takes…

70 dogs intended to be sold as 'pulutan' in Baguio saved

By Julie M. Aurelio

GMA to check if Edsa bus stops are helping unclog traffic flow

By Allison W. Lopez



Mom, son slain ...

METROBRIEFS

Trailer truck causes gridlock in Chinatown ...



FALLEN electric posts on Binondo, Manila

... another one slows down NLEx traffic

8 teens nabbed for videoke bar trouble

Navotas holiday revelers get warning

Makati rich to play Santa

Canonical coronation of Immaculate Conception

Politics behind recall bid, says San Pedro

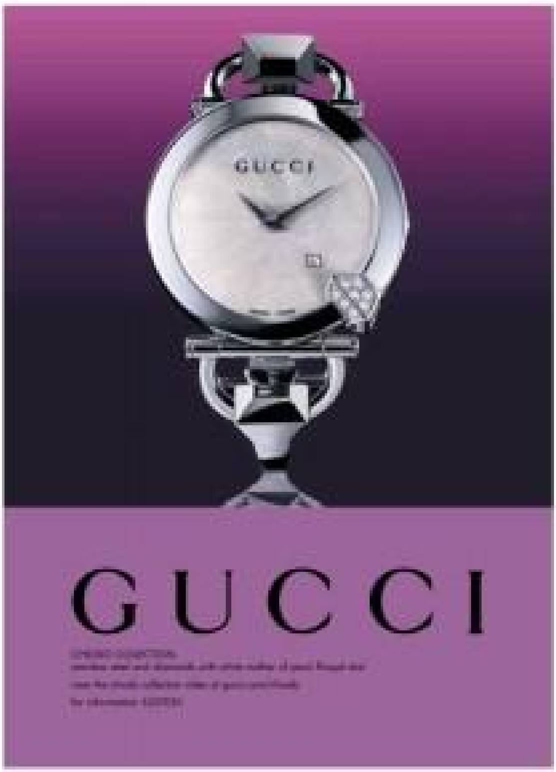


Thai flights resume as king prepares for speech





Union agrees to major concessions to automakers



WorldBriefs

Disenchanted Episcopals plan rival branch

Recession slows down India outsourcing

The WORLD

Mumbai bombs found week after attack

MUMBAI, INDIA—POLICE FOUND TWO BOMBS AT Mumbai's main train station nearly a week after they were left there by gunmen behind the attacks—in a stunning new example of the botched security that has become a major issue in India since the deadly three-day siege.

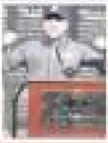
[illegible]

AP

Spy agencies rush to avoid Mumbai blame

[illegible]

AFP



WHAT'S INSIDE

■ 'Dream Match calls for KO victory' /A30

SPORTS

■ Celts streak to 10th win /A32



Close call for Toyota, Magnolia

Aces take on Tigers; Kings face Air21 crew

'Dream Match calls for F

Manny: I'll give my best

By Francis T.J. Ochoa, Assistant Sports Editor

"We are going to fight"

Mexican show of support

What drives De La



OSCAR De La Hoya gestures as he makes a point in Wednesday's press conference for the "Dream Ma...

Marquez still chasing Pacman fo

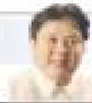


MARQUEZ I won both fights.

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

Fight outcome decide

ONE GAME AT A TIME



Recah Trinidad... Sev Sarmenta

TCC on course for Fil, Am sweep

By Frank Cirujo, Inquirer Northern Luzon

KO win'



[illegible]

or a 3rd fight

[illegible]



PACQUIAO [illegible]

Hopkins: Manny goes to school Saturday

By [illegible]



HOPKINS [illegible]

LAS VEGAS—[illegible]

[illegible]

[...]es our national mood

[illegible]

[...] Murakami 2 down with 67

[illegible]

Fellow Davaoenos hound Marvin

[illegible]

DepEd, PSC team up for Women in Sports

[illegible]

SPORTS

Raptors fire coach after lopsided loss

[illegible] *Reuters*

Sampras rips McEnroe on return to England

[illegible] *AP*

Celts streak to 10th win

[illegible]

Cavaliers 118, Knicks 82

[illegible]

Lakers 114, 76ers 102

[illegible]



BOBCATS' Emeka Okafor (50) blocks Thunder's Nick Collison. *AP*

Bata, Django deliver as QC catches World

[illegible]



Crack int'l darts bets plunge into action today

[illegible]

Heat Wave car show comes off the wraps

[illegible]

Pasay special derby unfolds today

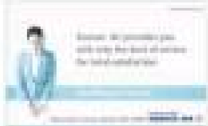
[illegible]

By Top Choice *Ar Santa Ana Park*

[illegible]



BUSINESS



Crisis dampens interest in housing loans



CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



Shares close lower

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.8 percent lower ...

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL MELTDOWN HAS turned overseas Filipinos jittery in buying homes for their households, dampening prospects on local banks' consumer lending.

PAYMENTS, B2



UNCERTAINTY appears to be etched on the faces of Filipino workers who have recently arrived in Manila after losing their jobs in Taiwan. The Philippine government is still trying to secure more jobs for workers in Taiwan.

OFWs still leaving for Taiwan despite job cuts

THE DEPLOYMENT OF FILIPINO workers to Taiwan is expected to continue ...

OFWS STILL, B2

IN THIS ISSUE

Bill seeks to tighten screws on gov't spending

Into the hands of the enemy?

Biz Buzz
By the staff

Most 'entrained' regulator

Gokongwei's backdoor foray

Sales of pre-need firms dropped 20.8% in 10 months to October

OFWs still leaving ...

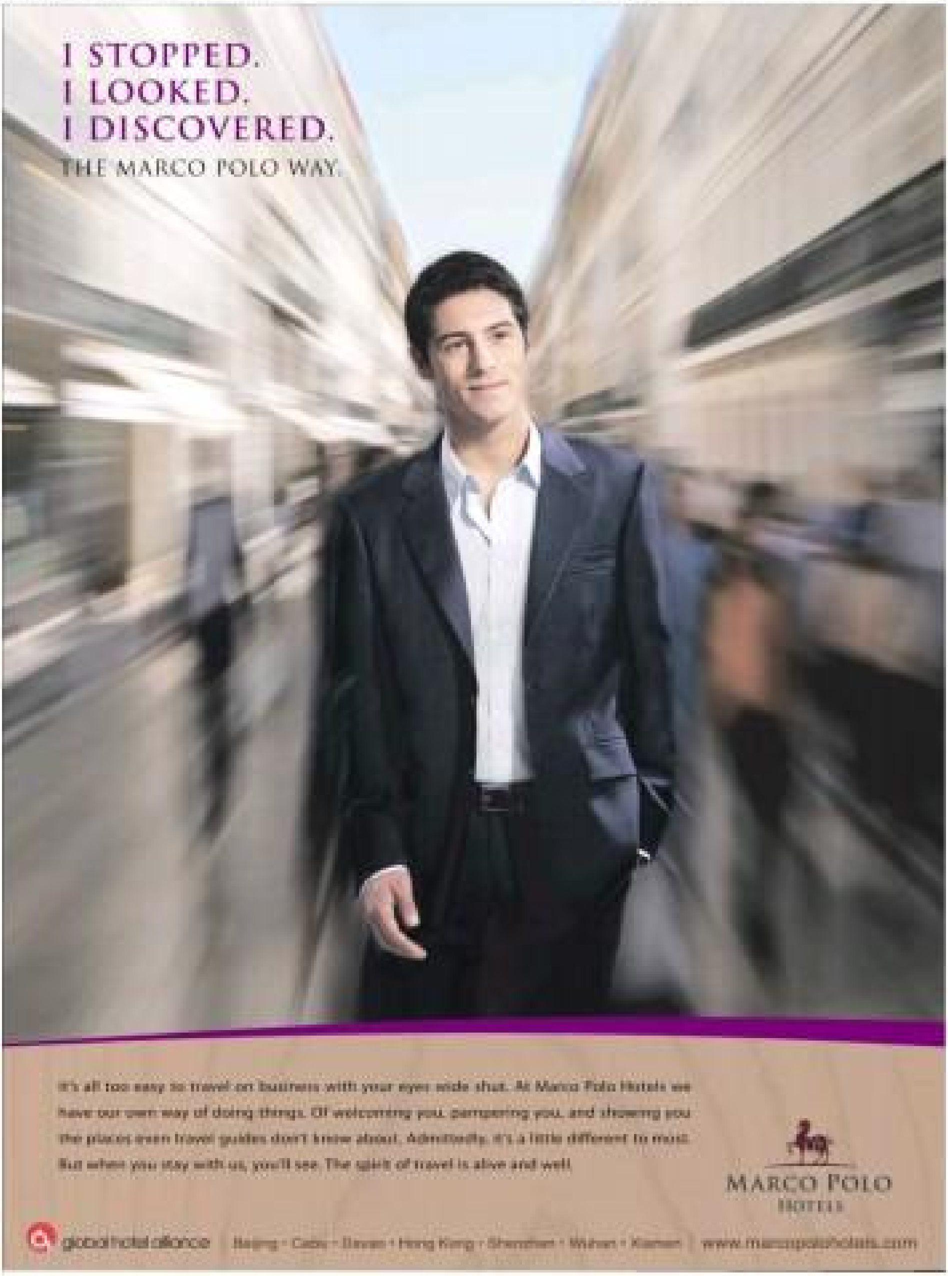
Crisis dampens ...

Shares close lower

Cash assistance to poor backed

CCT: Not a dole but a program that invests in people





Backup corporate files



Raul J. Palabrica

Contingency plans

Backup files

Digitized data

Investor interest in mining seen to remain strong

Despite the continued softening of prices

By Amy R. Remo

Aussie firm says Didipio not for sale

Cash assistance to poor backed

Philippine Stock Exchange

Currencies

China, US join forces as world recession looms

Priority is to restore waning confidence

US automakers plead for rescue

Food and immune boosters

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

The immune system

Immune boosters

Four key nutrients

Business

Go easy on biofuels, Platts says

Crude prices estimated to drop to $35 a barrel by Q1 2009

DOF rejects plea to exempt LLDA from income tax

BUSINESS *Friday*

Who's knocking on ad agencies' doors?





Business model: Key to market success, beating competition, profitability

(First of a series)



Marketing Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Uncover a model

'Zero defections'

The Citibank experience

Christmas on a budget

From page B1

US President-elect Barack Obama, who takes office on Jan. 20, is working on growth-boosting package which economists predict could reach $700 billion or more, while the European Union is examining a 200-billion euro ($259 billion) plan.

Britain, for example, has tackled head-on the danger that consumers may save any extra cash by cutting its main sales tax, but planning to raise it again at the end of next year, in a bid to give shoppers an incentive to spend sooner rather than later.

Taiwan, meanwhile, plans to give its 23 million people a shopping voucher each worth T$ 3,600 ($107).

The proposal has been well received on the streets of Taipei, though few think it will make a big difference.

"I'm looking forward to it boosting my business," said Liu, between serving customers in her small clothes shop.

"It might not be worth anything to the rich, but it'll definitely help the poor," she added, saying she planned to use her family's vouchers to buy a new television.

Saving and spending

The levers of economic policy take time to move the gears of consumer spending—time some retailers don't have as they prepare for Christmas, which in western countries accounts for an estimated 40 percent of annual sales.

The situation is no less challenging elsewhere.

"I have never seen consumers so reluctant in spending this deep," said Fumihide Ohkura, executive vice president in charge of merchandising at Japanese grocer Aeon Retail.

Store groups from JC Penney in the United States to El Corte Ingles in Spain and Seiyu in Japan are cutting prices and offering promotions to lure shoppers and avoid being left with piles of unsold stock.

Anxious to protect profit margins, many are looking at innovative ways of boosting custom.

British grocer J. Sainsbury, for example, has captured the mood of the times with campaigns such as "Feed Your Family for a Fiver" (five pounds) and "Switch and Save," which encourages customers to switch from branded foods to its own cheaper—but higher profit margin—ranges.

Retailers and shopping centre owners also are clubbing together to try to attract business.

The Bluewater centre in Britain, Europe's biggest shopping mall, is offering a free visit to Santa Claus and a free gift.

In the United States, mall operator Macerich Co. is promoting events through holiday outlets to decorative displays and has also asked employees to clap and cheer for customers as they entered the malls, to thank them for shopping.

New Year blues

The Internet is proving an important marketing ground as cash-strapped shoppers flock to price-comparison websites and blogs advertising money-off vouchers.

US clothing giant Gap and British toy store Hamleys are among groups offering vouchers online.

"You just have to be online," said Gavin Smith, director of operations at IMRG, an industry body for Internet retailing. "Whether you're getting people to click and collect, buy online and collect in-store or print off vouchers, you have to get people into your shops. Footfall is everything at the moment."

For some, the heavy discounting is not by design, but out of distress, with retailers such as Circuit City, the second biggest US electronics chain, and UK music-to-DVDs chain Woolworths filing for bankruptcy protection.

But if life is tough for retailers now, the real pain could come in early 2009, when unemployment is expected to rise further.

"The impact of the crisis on consumption is ahead of us," Claude Boulle, head of French retailers' body CCI, told Reuters. "The economic crisis will happen in France in 2009. We suspect that we have already lived a lot without yet really suffering." Reuters

Renowned artists exhibit works at EPSON PRO

Epson, a world leader in digital imaging and printing solutions, recently introduced the "Epson PRO," eight of the country's premiere photographers and graphic designers who represent the finest the industry has to offer.

The Epson PRO is comprised of National Artist BenCab, renowned photographers Ben Bautista, George Tapan, Jun de Leon, Quincy Castillo, Ryan Agoncillo and exceptional graphic designers Drew Europeo and Robert Alejandro.

The art works represents the country's best as envisioned by this group of photographers and graphic designers—images that are meant to move its captured audiences towards visual and emotional fulfillment while provoking and inspiring human sentiment with its timeless appeal.

National Artist for Visual Arts BenCab showcased "Concealed and Revealed I" and "Concealed and Revealed II", two mixed pieces that display the contrast between the draped figure and the nude.

Distinguished graphic designer Drew Europeo, who is a co-founder of Philwebmasters, a National organization of Web designers and developers also give her contribution to the Epson PRO Exhibit.

Master photographer Quincy Castillo showcased "Peninsula" and "White Dragon." "Peninsula" is an abstract image printed and manipulated by hand with watercolor, brought back to the digital environment.

It seeks to show a marriage between photography and painting.

Other works exhibited are: Jun de Leon's "Chaos 118" and "Chaos 221", George Tapan's "Camiguin" and "Bato", Ben Bautista's "Lash" and "Flash", Ryan Agoncillo's "Pagsulong" and "Tagak", Robert Alejandro's "Philippine Illustrations 1" and "Philippine Illustrations 2".

On its 10th year in the Philippines, Epson celebrates a decade-long track record of supporting professional photographers and artists through Epson PRO. Part of the proceeds of the Epson PRO exhibit will be donated to benefit the youth and education projects of GMA Kapuso Foundation.

"Epson's advocacies are not limited to helping the industry achieve the greatest heights in quality. We also believe in being of service to the community, and in this particular case, to the education of the Filipino youth," said Senior General Manager, Division Head for Sales & Marketing of Epson Philippines Corporation Eduardo Borcas.



BUSINESS Friday

Christmas on a budget



PEDESTRIANS walk past a sale sign on Oxford street in central London. REUTERS

LONDON—THE BRIGHT "50 PERCENT off" signs plastered over the windows of London's plush new Westfield shopping centre don't hold much sway over Helen Morton.

"I'm going to spend less this Christmas. More for the children, less for the adults," said the 53-year-old retired nurse, bustling empty-handed through the garish and marble splendor of Europe's newest and most luxurious shopping mall. "People aren't spending. People have lost confidence and they are really saving their money." Governments and retailers, fearing this attitude may be widespread as the financial crisis dents spending from the United States to Iceland, are dreaming up innovative ways to persuade people to part with cash that lenders won't lend.

Governments are giving away billions of dollars in tax cuts to put more cash into shoppers' pockets.

On the bright side, for the shopper who has any cash to spare, Christmas looks like being a reasonable deal.

"I've bought a couple of nice jackets, one of which was reduced by 40 percent," said Carmen Sanchez, a shopper at Spanish clothing retailer Zara, also offering discounts of up to 50 percent as it struggles to meet ambitious business targets set in a 2007 forecast.

The worry is consumers will simply use any extra cash to pay off debts racked up when money was easy. Seeing prices could fall yet further, some shoppers are also holding back in the hope of snapping even bigger bargains later.

"My boyfriend and I are both waiting to get our Christmas presents on Boxing Day," said Mollie Treleaven, a student in Melbourne, Australia, taking a break from a shopping trip to department store Myer and clothing group Coles Co.

A dilemma for retailers and policymakers is that discounting is all very well if it persuades shoppers to spend.

But if they are unsure of their jobs and think more cuts lie ahead, they may hold off—precipitating deflation.

Saving Christmas

"The global economy is experiencing a classic 'hangover' from a credit binge," said IHS Global Insight economist Ken Johnson, who expects consumers' priority will be to rebuild savings.

IHS is forecasting world economic growth will slow from 2.7 percent this year to 1 percent in 2009, its lowest since 1982.

Consumer spending, which drives about two-thirds of economic growth in the United States, could slow even more sharply. The America's Research Group predicts the first fall in US pre-Christmas holiday spending to [illegible] a quarter of a century.

"Yesterday I received my social security savings [illegible] and looked at it. I'm concerned. I'm going to put more away," said Rose Fernandez, a law enforcement worker in New Jersey, adding she had recently cleared $6,000 in credit card debt.

Governments know the risks.

CHRISTMAS B2-2

Festive And Fair

The Body Shop® unveils a fabulous array of naturally-inspired gorgeous gifts for you to treat friends and family to this season: an abundance of wonderful, new seasonal inspired fragrance choices for bath, body and home. Buying from *The Body Shop®* collection means that you show a loved one you care with a gorgeous gift, while you enjoy luxurious products with a clear conscience. Among half of *The Body Shop®* products contain ingredients or materials sourced through our unique fair trade programme, Community Trade.

And ethical shopping doesn't mean compromising on luxury. This Christmas, enjoy a dazzling medley of products that are up-to-the minute, stylish and indulgent. Superb bath and body collections include new **Warm Amber**, which is inspired by amber, one of the earth's ancient and precious gems, decadent **Rich Plum**, and festive **Cranberry**.



For every gift pack purchased, P1.00 is donated to Rock Ed Philippines, a volunteer group working to provide the nation with venues for alternative education.

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

Contributing Editors Apples Aberin Sadhwani, Jered Eppinger and Pia Francesca Perez



PLANTED Diamond Purse, also available in silver and rose gold



ENCRUSTED Purse

Picks of the week

Bags: Aranaz's Copper Diamond collection for Bobbi Brown

BAG DESIGNER ARNA Aranaz creates a limited-edition collection that takes its cue from makeup product Bobbi Brown's Copper Diamond holiday palette.

Aranaz designs unusual bag shapes inspired by diamonds and their facets. She then mixes precious materials that combine Bobbi Brown's colors with her design sensibilities. Plush leather in copper, black, handwashed mother-of-pearl shell hardware, hairdressing Swarovski crystals and intricate hand-beading mark this collection—five carefully designed pieces that can help you sparkle like nowhere!

Purchase of Copper Diamond bag comes with a free Bobbi Brown gift. Purchase of Copper Diamond makeup comes with a free Aranaz clutch. Available at Power Plant, Greenbelt 5, Rustan's Makati.

Picks S3



COPPER Diamond Bot Copper Bag



COPPER Diamond Cosmetic Pouch



DIAMANTE Tote, also available in silver







How to lace up for the holidays

Give this classic fabric the cutting-edge, modern touch your grandma never imagined



APPLES' PICKINGS



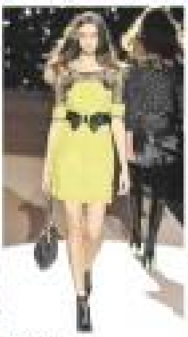
Apples Aberin-Sadhwani



runway inspirations runway inspirations runway inspirations runway inspirations runway inspirations



LA PERLA



TEMPERLEY London



PRADA



GIORGIO Armani



DEREK Lam

Picks of the week





Jewelry: Abh's collection



Blog: www.stylebible.ph







DELIGHT IN THE MAGIC OF THE HOLIDAYS!

Celebrate the Christmas season at SM Supermalls! Bring your loved ones and enjoy all the exciting holiday events.

MAGICAL MOMENTS WITH SANTA

Kids get to meet Santa all weekends of December at the following malls:

SM Supercenter Valenzuela, SM City Sta. Mesa, SM City Taytay, SM Supercenter Pasig, SM City Sucat, SM Southmall, SM City Marilao, SM City Baguio, SM City Lucena, SM City Clark, SM City Lipa, SM City Bacoor, SM Supercenter Muntinlupa, SM City Rosario, SM City Rosales, SM City Sta. Rosa, SM Supercenter Molino, SM City Dasmariñas, SM City Batangas, SM City Cebu, SM City Davao and SM City Bacolod



Take a pic at the Magical Disney Photo Spot!



UP Concert Chorus at The Block, Dec 16; DLSU Pops at The Block, Dec 17; UST Orchestra at SM Southmall, Dec 24; Christmas with the Company at SM Supercenter Molino, Dec 13.

PEP RALLY

Catch the live performances brought to you by Toy Kingdom:

SM Megamall, Dec 5-7
The Block, Dec 12-14
SM Mall of Asia, Dec 19-21

MAGICAL SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS

Feel the spirit of the season through music. Catch these performances at your favorite malls! The Ateneo Glee Club at SM Megamall, Dec 17;

MAGICAL FIREWORKS

Experience a show of lights and watch the night sky dazzle at the following malls all weekends of December: SM City Sta. Mesa, SM City Marikina, SM City Taytay, SM City Sucat, SM Southmall, SM City Marilao, SM City Baguio, SM City Lucena, SM City Clark, SM City Lipa, SM City Batangas, SM City Bacoor, SM City Rosales, SM Supercenter Muntinlupa, SM City Sta. Rosa, SM Supercenter Molino, SM City Dasmariñas, SM City Cebu, SM City Davao and SM City Bacolod

CHARLIE GREEN LIVE!

Charlie Green, the 10-year old Filipino-British singing sensation, first wowed audiences as a contestant on Britain's Got Talent. The musical wunderkind brings his unique singing style and performs for SM audiences.



SM Megamall, Dec 21
The Block, Dec 20

MAGICAL HOLIDAY MOMENTS

Fun events await everyone at these malls: Giant Christmas Kiddie Collage Unveiling at SM City Taytay, Dec 14; The Annual Kiddie Caroling at SM City Taytay, Dec 21; Gingerbread Housemaking Contest at SM City Clark, Dec 21; Synchronized Lights and Sounds Show at SM Supercenter Molino, Dec 1 to 31

EXTENDED MALL HOURS

SM Supermalls gives you more time to shop!

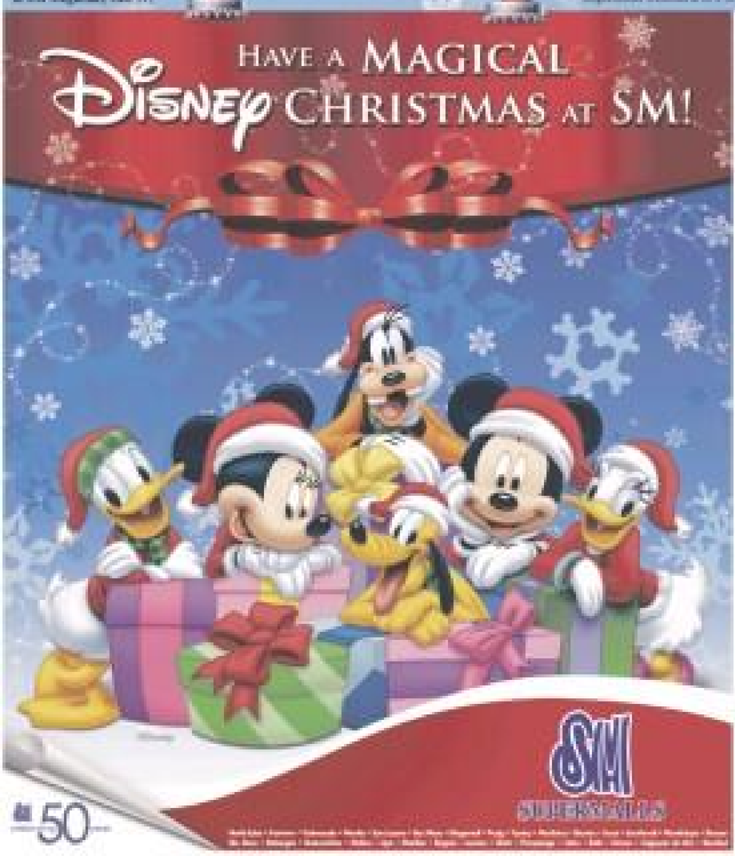
Metro Manila and Provincial Luzon branches:
Nov 28-Dec 21, 10 AM-10 PM
Dec 13 and 20, 10 AM-12 MN
Dec 24 and 31, 9 AM-7 PM
Jan 1, 2009, 12 NN-9 PM

SM Supercenter Pasig:
Dec 1-31, 10 AM-11 PM
Dec 13 and 20, 10 AM-12 MN
Dec 24 and 31, 9 AM-7 PM
Dec 25, 12 NN-11 PM
Jan 1, 2009, 12 NN-11 PM



SM City Cebu, SM City Iloilo
Dec 20 and 23, 10 AM-12 MN
Dec 21 and 22, 10 AM-10 PM
Dec 24 and 31, 9 AM-7 PM
Dec 25-30, 10 AM-10 PM
Jan 1, 2009, 12 NN-9 PM

SM City Davao, SM City Cagayan de Oro:
Dec 13 and 20, 10 AM-12 MN
Dec 21-23, 10 AM-10 PM
Dec 24 and 31, 9 AM-7 PM
Dec 25-30, 10 AM-10 PM
Jan 1, 2009, 12 NN-9 PM



Experience the wonders of the holidays at SM Supermalls!

Magical Disney Photo Spots

Take your photos with your favorite Disney friends at the Magical Disney Photo Spots!

Magical Sounds of Christmas

The UP Singing Ambassadors

[illegible]

Magical Carolling Cheers

Local choirs perform starting Dec 1.

[illegible]

FRIDAY
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
D1
LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

'We will make them forget the economy'

Luxury brand is out to buck the odds





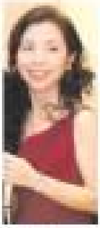
OMEGA [illegible]



SHOWING off their chic Omega watch are Omega regional sales director [illegible] and marketing officer [illegible]



HOTSHOTS at Omega's boutique in Greenbelt 5: [illegible] and Lucy Gomez, Omega president Stephen Urquhart and [illegible]



OMEGA general manager [illegible]

Luxury watches are a tycoon's best friend



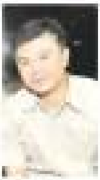
OMEGA president Stephen Urquhart and Lucy Gomez snip the ceremonial ribbon to formally open the Omega boutique.



CONGRESSWOMAN [illegible]



[illegible]



RONNEL Singson



[illegible]



THE CELEBRATOR and [illegible]



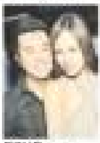
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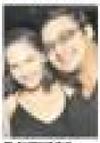
[illegible]



[illegible]



[illegible]



[illegible]



RONALD and [illegible] Singson

SINCE I'M A WATCH FREAK, PALANGga, I just had to be there when the watch with prestige and glamour, Omega, [illegible] opened its second boutique at the upscale Greenbelt 5.

[illegible]

"We are happy that we will be able to make our full product range available to them after 60 years in the Philippines, and in this [illegible]," Urquhart said.

[illegible]

"Was it insured?" I asked.

[illegible]

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH



Maurice Arcache

Photos by [illegible] using [illegible] Photo Solutions

[illegible]

Lawmaker's birthday bash

[illegible]

Cheers, palangga.

New development

[illegible]



TV HOSTS and sports enthusiasts [illegible]



[illegible] RLC-HLDD SVP-GM



FRANCIS [illegible]



RICHARD [illegible]



[illegible]



[illegible] RLC SVP for sales and marketing



[illegible]

[illegible]

Adidas race

[illegible]



[illegible]



CHAMPION of 21K [illegible]



AN EVENING look from Spring/Summer 2009



SPRING/SUMMER 2009 collection borrows from exotic African and Asian inspirations.



[illegible], president of Escada Asia-Pacific (right), with [illegible] and Mary Lou [illegible], Philippine franchise owners, at the Hong Kong presentation last week. Below, a woven leather tote for summer





BANANA YELLOW and peacock blue are key colors for summer



BEADED color of a summer piece

'We will make them forget the economy'



FLUORESCENT PINK dress (below) and red doctor sling bag and shoes (above) from Escada Sport



From page D1

designed mainly to match the clothes. "Now [the accessories] can stand alone. The big part is still RTW, but season after season, we will introduce stronger accessories."

Stunning

The handbags, for instance, are designed to be both stunning and functional.

"Before, it would be just an over-the-top pretty evening bag," said [illegible], Escada's managing director for Hong Kong and Southeast Asia.

"But we don't think that's the modern woman's lifestyle anymore. We give her something she can use to the office and well afterward," she said.

The Cruise 2009 collection, now in stores, offers very relaxed, 1970s-inspired pieces, a vibrant mix of banana-yellow, peacock blue, aqua, lime, navy and geranium shades.

Spring takes strong influences from exotic African and Asian tribes, pale neutrals mixed with deep and warmer earthy tones.

Escada Sport, the brand's casual/sporty line, has pastels to fluorescents.

It's an evolving palette that's just the positive element any brand needs to entice a woman to whip out the plastic card in these times.

"Frankly speaking, [we] haven't felt the pinch. Not yet," [illegible] said. "But I'm sure it will come, not on the main line but maybe on the sport line — it will be very tough next year."

Already, it looks like Escada has it all figured out.



A TOP-SELLING "Moneta" bag comes in banana yellow for Cruise 2009. It's made of one-piece pleated leather.



National Artist Lumbera's new poetry book

Goings On

UE Knights' Christmas party

Entertainment package

Vintage car exhibit, swap meet

Home for the holidays



LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

Eight easy trends for 2009

Thin brows are so out

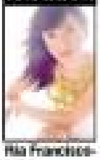


SCARLETT Johansson

THE NEW YEAR IS a stone's throw away. This is a good time to re-evaluate our relationship with our skin and the way we can make the most of our assets.

Luckily, 2009's projected trends aren't difficult to follow. In fact, they're easy and very "makeup for dummies" friendly. So before going through your kikay kit to ditch what has expired, here's a rundown of products you have that can still make you look great next year.

KNOCKOUT!



Rita Francisco-Prieto

Sexy dew

Going under the sun is not fashionable anymore. So using scarlet lips and rosier blush on the cheeks makes for a hot solution. Crème blushers give more depth and makes the skin look dewy which is your way. Korean label Andy & Debb recently made their models sport this look.

Natural brows

Be kind to your brows! "The thicker, the better" should be your mantra for 2009. Allow them to grow naturally, just plucking out stray hairs. You don't have to shape them, too, because thin brows are so out. Thick brows will also make you look younger.

The twist

Instead of just pulling up your hair, the French twist will be making a strong comeback, so why not try it?

The difference this time is, it is looser, more playful than the stiff one we're become familiar with. This 'do may be worn by the younger set, but will also make more mature women look softer and more feminine. This twisted-crown style was seen on Caroline Herrera's runway!



JESSICA Alba

Soft waves

Keeping your hair down to frame your face is possibly the easiest trend for everyone for 2009. This minimum-effort look brings maximum appeal. Have you ever heard of the wash-and-wear hair? Well, this look will give you a chance to look like one! Check out Chris Benz's runway. If soft waves are your natural hair growth, it's time to use your wide curling iron instead of your flat iron.



RIHANNA

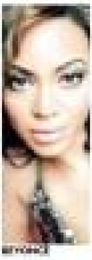
Smoky easy

2009 will be the year of smoky eyes—a look that can be sported day or night. The trick is to use pale colored blush and nude lips to balance the eyes.

This look can be played up or down by just adding to the liner as the day progresses.

Focus on the eyes

I've seen this look on the fashion side of daring socialite formal events; it was so refreshing to see. Bold eye shadow or eyeliners worn with barely there makeup are a great contrast to formal get-up. The eye shadow keeps the focus on the eyes and doesn't distract from the clothes you're wearing.



BEYONCE

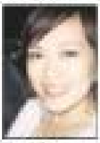
Great skin

Keeping up good skin is key—or at least giving the illusion that you have one. Finding the right concealer is crucial in this regard, plus a good cleansing regimen. It is not as time-consuming as you think. Cleansing takes only five minutes in the morning and before you hit the sack. It can be the most therapeutic thing you can do for yourself in a day.



Cindy Crawford's beauty secret

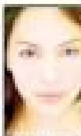
Her Meaningful Beauty skincare line is surprisingly affordable





Subtle—but eye-catching—makeup

Turn heads with more natural colors that are easy to wear







Sneak peek





The lowdown on longer, thicker lashes

Separate mascara fact from fiction





Striking cuts, exciting colors




NATURE'S Minerals Eye Color

New pure mineral makeup brands

MAKEOVER 911



IT SEEMS THERE IS A new mineral makeup brand popping up every month that's actually good for one's skin. Unlike regular makeup that is pinpointed as the culprit for breakouts and skin irritation, mineral makeup is recommended for women who have had aggressive skin treatments and even surgical procedures as it contains trace minerals that actually heal and prevent skin irritation.


NATURE'S Minerals Foundation

More formulas


NATURE'S Minerals Cheek Color



LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Oh, the urge to nip and tuck

When you play around with what nature has given, some things will go wrong. A little Botox here, Restylane there—it's an impossible spiral turning back the frightful clock

What you must know about radiofrequency for skin tightening



More and more want this facelift without surgery. What are its pluses—and pitfalls?

Going skin deep

Oh, the urge to nip and tuck

Deaths

Low self-esteem

What you must know about radiofrequency for skin tightening

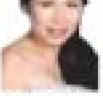
Deep heating



ALBERT Martinez before and after Thermage

Rejuvenation

Body contouring









CHRISTMAS CARNIVALE AT filiCity

the city of life

Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL FILINVEST-ALABANG

This Week

Dec. 6, 5pm, Carousel Court
HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL
Catch Sam Concepcion, Cheska Ortega and GMA talents in this one-hour musical show!

Dec. 7, 5pm, Carousel Court
"FINALLY, IYA VILLANA" MALL TOUR
Get a chance to meet Iya Villaña in person as she promotes her newest album.

Dec. 9, 5pm, Carousel Court
MARTIN NIEVERA "MY CHRISTMAS LIST" MALL TOUR
Watch the Concert King, Martin Nievera live as he serenades you with Christmas carols!

Dec. 11 - 14, Mini Trade Hall
AUTO CYCLE SHOW
Fuel up your desire for the best cars and bikes as Multi Exhibit Network brings to you this grand showcase!

Dec. 13, 2pm, Carousel Court
CHRISTMAS BALLET
Be enchanted this Yuletide season by a performance from the Association of Ballet Academies of the Philippines!

Up Next

Dec. 14, 5pm, Carousel Court
CHRISTMAS SWEETS, KIDDIE TREATS
By QTV / Henry's Kitchen

Dec. 15 - 30, Mini Trade Hall
CELEBRITY BAZAAR

Dec. 18, Carousel Court
EAT BULAGA LIVE
Tito Sotto, Vic Sotto, Joey De Leon and Eat Bulaga Cast

Dec. 21, 2pm, Carousel Court
CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA IN CONCERT

Dec. 30, 4pm, Carousel Court
10TH ANNIVERSARY GRAND DRAW AND BEST OF CLUB MHAH



WESTGATE

Nov. 14 - Dec. 6 (every Friday and Saturday)
NIGHT MARKET
Come get the very best of this season's best finds, available til midnight!

Dec. 6
VOLXMAS "A VOLKSWAGEN CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION"
Catch the Christmas spirit with the Volkswagen Car Show!

Dec. 12
IN THE MOOD FOR JAZZ
Listen as Kitchie and Nadine Abasolo get you in the mood for a sexy night of jazz!

Dec. 17
JAZZ NIGHT WITH VINCE LAHORRA

Dec. 19
IN THE MOOD FOR MORE JAZZ
with Kenchie Dy & Luke Mijares

F@stBytes @ NORTHGATE CYBERZONE

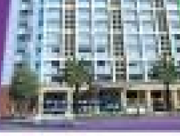
Dec. 11
BATTLE OF THE BANDS
Rock your hearts out as talented call center bands go head to head to see who rocks the most!

SOUTH STATION

Nov. 28 - Jan. 3
SUPER PASKO NIGHT MARKET
Get the best bargains and shop nonstop as the sun sets!



Shop your way to a
WEST PARC ALDER
Condo Unit Grand Prize!
SEE POSTERS FOR DETAILS
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1 - 0346, Series of 2008



celebrating 10 years of fun!

There's never a dull moment in
FESTIVAL SUPERMALL FILINVEST-ALABANG


THE 50TH AVENUE Robinsons Place facade

50th AVENUE Robinsons Manila ribbon-cutting ceremony (L-R) Rep. Sonya Jusfer-Go[illegible], Pilo Mapa of Robinsons Land, Rep. Imee Marcos, Rep. Cynthia Villar and Robinsons Malls' Mindo Cargos



New shopping place

50TH AVENUE has opened a new space at Robinsons Place in Manila.

The launch was a production of Fil-Asia Concepts Inc., headed by Dayang Sonya Jusfer-[illegible], with siblings Dayang Fatima, Dayang Aisha and Dayang [illegible]. Special guests at the ribbon-cutting ceremony were Pilo Mapa, GM of Robinsons Malls; Mindo Cargos, VP for leasing of Robinsons; Imee R. Marcos and Rep. Cynthia A. Villar.

Fil-Asia Concepts Inc. caters to retail and space leasing, among others. Among its ventures are Telecom World and 50th Avenue.

The new 50th Avenue offers a wide variety of clothing and trend items for different ages.

50th Avenue is on the second floor of Robinsons Place Manila, Pedro Gil Wing.


THE 50TH AVENUE Fashion Event at Robinsons Place Manila


[illegible] Jusfer and Aisha Jusfer


FATIMA Jusfer and [illegible]

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty



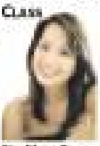


Betty Go's neat, uncluttered style



Even away from comfort zone of home and family, she goes for simple white tee and khakis

THE WORKING CLASS



OF THE 10 COMmandments, the most heartwarming would have to be "Honor thy father and thy mother." Betty Go grew up living that commandment.

[illegible]



COTTON twill jacket, sleeveless ruffle blouse and denim jeans by Marc Jacobs



ZIP-DOWN ruffle blouse by Marc Jacobs with matching slim cut jeans



LIFESTYLE





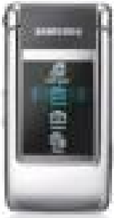
Active imagination is at its best with the Samsung G400, L700 and S7330—perfect for the active lifestyle, as shown in these clothes from INQUIRER Lifestyle's Fitness.Fashion show





ANTHONY

Diverse line
to fit diverse lifestyle



SAMSUNG'S NEWEST LINE of mobile phones caters to a wide variety of lifestyles. From the stylish to the multifunctional mobile phone seekers, the Samsung G400, L700 and S7330 are made to satisfy one's imagination.





JAMES




Omnibus, omnipotent handset
Samsung debuts Omnia–to suit your lifestyle at work and at play












[illegible]

SAMSUNG INNOV8

Ultimate mobile entertainer





It is designed for powerful mobile photography, unlimited info access and fun entertainment

[illegible]



[illegible]







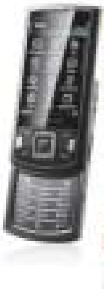








[illegible]





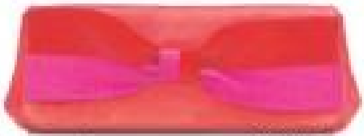


[illegible]



Lifestyle Fashion&Beauty





Holiday bag ideas





KATE SPADE'S TOP HOLIday bag collection includes the Sullivan Street group's oversize Paula clutch, the Mabla, and the roomy Blakely in sophisticated tweed and two-tone color combinations like butterscotch/black and chocolate/black.

[illegible]







GUCCI creative director Frida Giannini and pop princess Rihanna

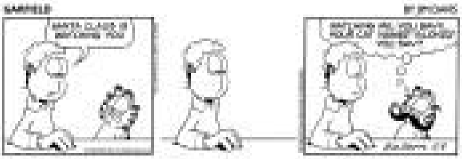
Rihanna for Gucci

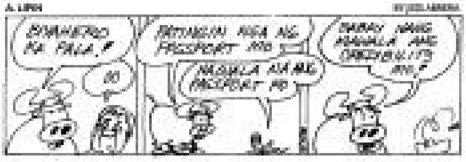
GUCCI CREATIVE DIrector Frida Giannini and Grammy award-winning musical artist Rihanna celebrated the worldwide launch of the 2008 Gucci Campaign to Benefit Unicef in New York recently.

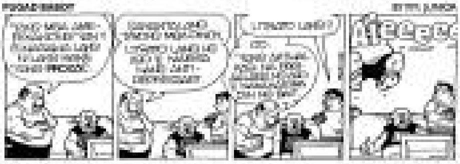
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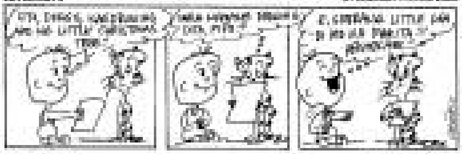
COMIC Relief



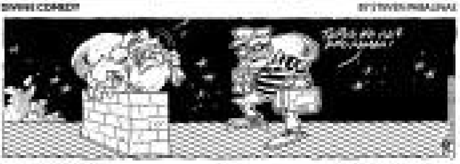


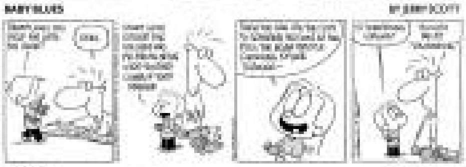


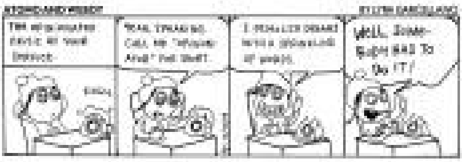




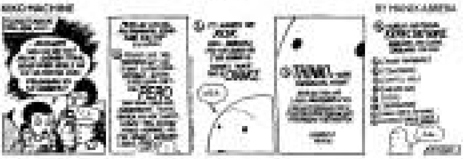


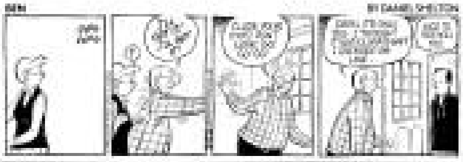




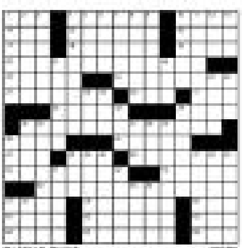




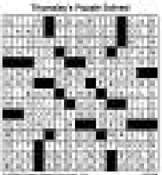




DAILY CROSSWORD



Thursday's Puzzle Solved



HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu

		6						
	5	1	7				2	
				6			4	5
				2			3	
		5		8		7		
	6			4				
8	2			3				
	9				8	6	1	
						3		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Last-minute Xmas shopping, from Greenhills to Alabang

[illegible]

Look hard enough, you'll have authentic finds in 'tiangge'

Greenhills Shopping Center

[illegible]

St. Francis Square/Marikina Riverbanks Centre

[illegible]

Weekend bazaars

[illegible]



ORCHIDS at P500 per pot



A TYPICAL pearl stall











AUTHENTIC Tory Burch fringe bag

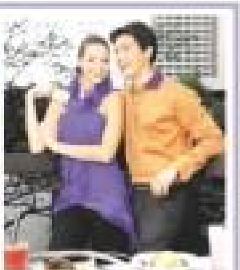


CORNERSTONES and other semi-precious stones

Tis' the season to reward yourself

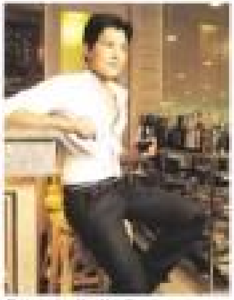
[illegible]











Comfy classics for babies













A classic reinvented

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty



Monique Lhuillier, others sketch Michelle Obama inaugural dress



SKETCH by Monique Lhuillier for Michelle Obama

IT'S ANYBODY'S GUESS WHO THE new US First Lady will pick to dress her for her husband's inauguration on Jan. 21 and the inauguration ball.

This early, fashion watchers are having an exciting time predicting Michelle Obama's choice.

Expectations are high. She is noted for her sophisticated but rather "democratic" fashion sense, compared to Jackie Kennedy, that is. People don't expect her to make the same disastrous wide-brimmed hat choice that Hillary Clinton did in 1993.

Women's Wear Daily asked top designers for sketches for Obama and got a few said yes, among them the Philippines' own Monique Lhuillier, Karl Lagerfeld, Christian Lacroix, Marc Jacobs, Carolina Herrera, Betsey Johnson, Isaac Mizrahi.



CHRISTIAN Lacroix sketch for Michelle Obama (left); Isaac Mizrahi sketches for Michelle Obama and daughters Sasha and Malia (right)





GAP dresses

Casual chic for the holidays

GAP CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS by giving out chic holiday memo padsets to its loyal customers just by purchasing any of the selected Gap apparel, Gap Kids and Baby lines.

The memo pad sets feature a delightful argyle pattern in shades of pink and red, with Christmas messages printed across the pages.

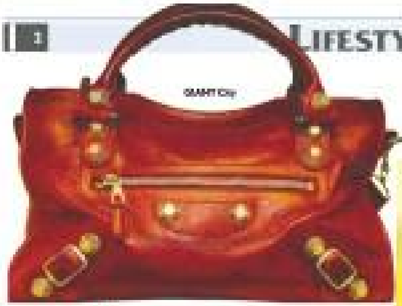
This holiday Gap showcases an updated line of casual clothing and accessories. The looks include hooded blazers, military coats and classic cotton shirts for men and easy party dresses and ... trousers for women. Gap Kids has a line of colorful leggings, hoodies and knit separates. Baby Gap has adorable reversible cardigans, lightweight cotton body suits and newborn socks.

The Gap holiday memo pad sets are available until Dec. 31.

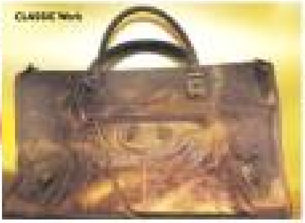
Gap is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Casual Clothing Specialists Inc., member of the Rustan's Group of Companies and is available at SM Mall of Asia, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, TriNoma Mall, Glorietta 4, Bonifacio High Street and Alabang Town Center.



GAP holiday memo pad set


GIANT City

'The brand has always been about mystery—style as opposed to trend'


CLASSIC Work





Balenciaga

opens 1st accessories store in Manila

By Alex Y. Vergara

BAG-CRAZY FILIPINAS NEED NOT fly to the world's fashion capitals to get their hands on Balenciaga's iconic motorcycle bags (among other to-die-for stuff) made from the softest distressed goat leather.

Food and wine flowed late into the evening as Jappy Gonzalez, the man behind the multi-brand store Homme et Femme at Shangri-La Mall, formally opened the country's first Balenciaga store at Greenbelt 5 in Makati recently.

A good mix of Manila's social set helped themselves to hors d'oeuvres that included macaroons with cheese prepared by leading chef Margarita Fores.

The store follows the look of the brand's newer stores worldwide, and exclusively carries Balenciaga's women's accessories and leather goods, including those killer shoes.

Homme et Femme has been selling a limited Balenciaga line since 2004. Because of the public's warm response to the brand, Gonzalez decided to open a separate store to showcase an expanded range of merchandise.

"Our principal's direction involves much development in the accessories business, and we saw an opportunity there," he said. "This explains our decision to open a Balenciaga store in Manila, which is a franchise operation."

He was mum on the possibility of opening Balenciaga stores in other parts of the country. Fashionistas can expect to find the new collection and certain pieces that don't belong to the classic group at Greenbelt 5.

The latter includes the chocolate-stitch line, which uses [illegible], and the line characterized by the round-shape elements in metal.

Respect

Does Gonzalez plan to carry Nicolas Ghesquiere's RTW collection as well?

Belgian designer Ghesquiere was hired in 1995 by the House of Balenciaga initially as a designer for its licensed products in Asia. He became creative director for the House's own RTW and accessories collection in 1997.

In 2001, the Gucci Group, in partnership with Ghesquiere, acquired the House of Balenciaga from the late Cristobal Balenciaga's nephews with the aim of re-creating the collection and respect the name once commanded during its glory days.

"Selling clothes is another story," said Gonzalez. "It requires a certain prestige to be in a free-standing store. Our principals feel that it has more space in Homme et Femme at the moment."

The Manila store may not be as big and as complete as the brand's other outlets, but it boasts being a flagship store for the new generation of Balenciaga's accessories stores.

Ghesquiere himself collaborated with architect Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster to come up with a new look for the store, which was executed by Balenciaga's architectural development group headed by Thomas Powell.

Devoid of huge logos, gimmicky designs and flagrant displays of pretentiousness, what keeps Balenciaga's bags surprisingly available in a world brimming with designer brands is a story in itself. Gonzalez attributes it simply to the brand's positioning.

"Balenciaga has always been about mystery," he said. "It has remained elusive, but more of all these trends. The allure of being part of a mystery is one point. It's about style as opposed to trend."


LISA Banks, Jappy Gonzalez and Margarita Fores


BALENCIAGA Manila


PAULINE Suaco, Divine Lee, Kathryn Ong and Isha Andaya


WENDY Benitez and Georgia Ong


JERI Lozano and Dennis Lustico


CHIC Sapphire


BOWLING bag and wallets


MICHAEL Salientes, Tina Ramos, Joanna Bengzon and Ruli de Leon


LIRAY Villafuerte, Baya Tinga and Cielo Sibal


WALKING tall


COVERED Day

Clothes for the perfect gentleman







CLOTHES, THEY SAY, MAKE THE MAN, and you can be the perfect gentleman this season with elegant and refined menswear from SM.

You'll be perfectly suited for formal occasions with sleek suits matched with dress shirts in solids and stripes from labels like Anthony Nocom, Liberto Premiù, Mens Street, and Van and Blake. Or you can add an informal touch to more casual get-togethers with dapper sweaters over shirts and slacks.

The color palette is muted—from shades of gray to black and white, from deep red and purple to the darkest navy blue, and from matte to iridescent.

The collection is available at the Menswear Department of all SM stores.



FROM OUR VANITY BASKET



Body butter

The Body Shop offers ... Body Butter, a body moisturizer that contains cocoa butter ... Nicaragua and babassu oil from Brazil.

24-hour eye cream





A NATURAL TWIST: Clutch with wooden handle.



BRONZE pleated handbag.



GRAY tote has a lustrous glow.

Hip and affordable bags



SM NOW HAS THE iconic Chinese Laundry brand in its stores.

Starting out as a collection of fashion-forward footwear for young women in 1981, Chinese Laundry has attracted the attention of a growing number of stars and celebrities. These include Paris Hilton, Hilary Duff, Courteney Cox, Kelly Clarkson, and Jennifer Love Hewitt.

Chinese Laundry's bag collection complements its trends showcased. There are hip and fashionable bags that don't break the budget—from classic totes to today's "it" slouch and bags to fun clutches that will keep one on top of the A-list of style.

Chinese Laundry bags are available at the Ladies' Boutique and Bags departments of the SM stores in Megamall, Makati and Mall of Asia.

BAG-A-HOLIC: Double purpose tote ...



Herb and mineral-rich body wash

Spa that feels like home





Hair care products

Iconic pilot watch lands in Manila







Breitling opens its first stand-alone boutique in Southeast Asia

Credit card to raffle off London trip

ENTERTAINMENT



Homecoming show tonight

US recession may be good for RP movies

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Surviving adversity



Death without drama

MYLENE Dizon faces death squarely as Joyce in "100."

By Jayson B. Bricenio

REVIEW

Death without drama

From page 8

[illegible]

Personal experience

[illegible]

Trouble in indie paradise

[illegible]

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

[illegible]





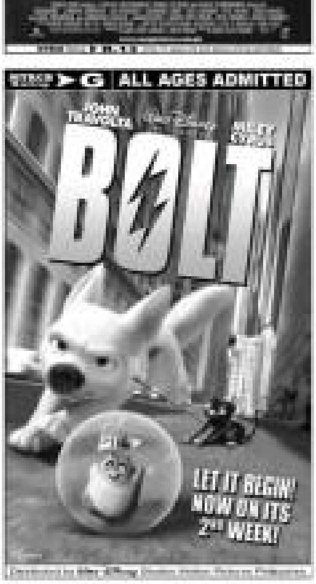
















PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Entertainment

Fund-raising concert

[illegible]

Panorama at ATC

[illegible]

PPO at The Pen

"Silver Bells, Christmas Concert at The Pen" [illegible]

Anniversary gig

[illegible]

Tonight

[illegible]

Tomorrow

[illegible]

Dec. 10

[illegible]



Tom Cruise: Kate and I will have more children





ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES— [illegible]

Strong woman

[illegible]

Pinay Maricel Pagulayan did visual effects for the actor's new film

Hottest baby

[illegible]

Small pleasures

[illegible]

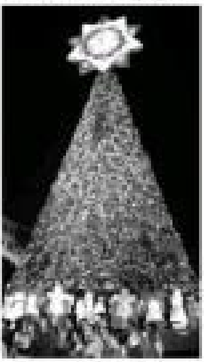
Timeless film

[illegible]

Manila and San Juan Treat Its Citizens to a Dazzling Lights Displaywith Meralco



[illegible]



[illegible]

LIVING Stars

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

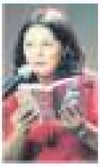
MARK ANTHONY FERNANDEZ

WISH LIST











'PARA KAY RICKY LEE'



MORE THAN LAUGHS





SM City Sta. Mesa Brings Magical Disney Christmas to Life

It's Christmas like no other at SM City Sta. Mesa! True to SM Supermalls' Magical Disney Christmas theme, the mall is packed with world-class musical treats that will leave both young and the young-at-heart beaming with delight.

Opening the December lineup of events is 2007 WCOPA Grand Champion Senior Vocalist of the World, Raymond Bajar, accompanied by sought-after musical director Gerard Salonga, and 5-piece band on Saturday, December 6 as part of Bajar's promotional tour for his debut album, Coming Home. This is followed by Yolanda Strings, a violin-viola-and-cello quartet on Sunday, December 7.

The following Saturdays of the month will feature the magical voices of the Mandaluyong Boys Choir on December 13, the Montessori Boys Choir on December 20, and the Anti-Discovery of the Year Cantoria Youth Choir and Musical Ensemble on December 27.

Sundays highlight magical serenades complementing the mall guests' shopping experience with holiday cheers through the Christmas Time! Brass Quintet on December 14, A Fairytale Christmas with Three Princesses on December 21, and in Essence Woodwind Quintet on December 28.

Aptly capping this month-long holiday musical extravaganza is the season's centerpiece event for a one-of-a-kind Christmas with Britain's classic balladeer, Matt Monro, Jr. on December 31.

Kids can likewise take photos along with their favorite Disney characters with photo dioramas scattered around the mall. Naughty or nice, kids gets a chance to come face to face with Santa Claus himself as he visits the mall on December 21, and 28. And grandly lighting up the skies and leaving everyone in awe is SM City Sta. Mesa's 4 Magical Fireworks Display on December 13 and 20.

Bring delight back to you and your family's Christmas shopping. Let's all have fun at SM City Sta. Mesa!

Families move into homes that Brad built

STARS FOR OTHERS

NEW ORLEANS—IT WAS A BITTERSWEET moment for Brad Pitt, walking through the Lower 9th Ward neighborhood where families were preparing to spend their first holidays since Hurricane Katrina.

Those families are moving into the first six homes built through Pitt's Make It Right foundation. One home was already decked with green garland lights, wreaths and red bows.

"I'm really happy for the families that are going to be here, but I can't help but think about the families that aren't," Pitt said Monday. "It's a [illegible]. The excitement is there. It's working. The frustration is that we have a long way to go."



BRAD Pitt is [illegible] technologically advanced playground in the Lower 9th Ward's [illegible] homes being built through his Make It Right Foundation.

Make It Right was launched by Pitt a year ago. The program calls for construction of 150 energy-efficient homes in a section of New Orleans washed away when Katrina broke levees Aug. 29, 2005.

So far, six homes have been built. Two more are under way and construction on another 14 begins in early 2009.

"You're going to see 100 homes here, mark my words," he said. "It's nice to see a few, but I'm anxious to see 100, 150, 1,000."

Pitt said that by December 2009, the Lower 9th Ward should be one of America's largest "green" neighborhoods.

"It's amazing," he said. "This place that suffered such injustice and so much death can become one of the primary examples of a high-performance neighborhood."

While the homes built by Pitt's project are more contemporary than the Creole cottages and shotgun-style homes typical of New Orleans, they incorporate some elements used in the area for generations, such as high ceilings and elevated porches.

The homes also have solar panels and features that help cut energy bills by at least 75 percent, Pitt said.

He explained his motivation to see the project through comes from his "love for architecture, sustainability, [illegible] and all things New Orleans." AP

AT THE CINEMAS

Cinema				
GLORIETTA 1	1 QUARANTINE	2 TWILIGHT	3 FOUR CHRISTMASES	4 PRIDE & GLORY
GLORIETTA 4	1 FOUR CHRISTMASES	2 QUARANTINE	3 TWILIGHT	
GLORIETTA 4	4 1408	5 BOLT	6 TWILIGHT	7 ROCKNROLLA
GREENBELT 1	1 QUARANTINE	2 TWILIGHT		
GREENBELT 3	1 TWILIGHT	2 TWILIGHT		
GREENBELT 3	3 ROCKNROLLA	4 FOUR CHRISTMASES	5 PRIDE & GLORY	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 TWILIGHT	2 TWILIGHT		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	3 FOUR CHRISTMASES	4 QUARANTINE	5 PRIDE & GLORY	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 TWILIGHT	2 BOLT	3 QUARANTINE	4 [illegible]
MARKET! MARKET!	1 TWILIGHT	2 FOUR CHRISTMASES		
MARKET! MARKET!	3 PRIDE & GLORY	4 QUARANTINE	5 [illegible]	
TRINOMA	1 FOUR CHRISTMASES	2 PRIDE & GLORY	3 QUARANTINE	4 TWILIGHT
TRINOMA	5 BOLT	6 TWILIGHT	7 TWILIGHT	

AT THE MALLS

Mall	Event
Glorietta	YULETIDE EVENINGS AT GLORIETTA 4
Greenbelt	CHRISTMAS JAZZ [illegible]
Alabang Town Center	CHRISTMAS CANTATA
Ayala Center Cebu	[illegible]
Market! Market!	HOLIDAY LASER SHOW
Trinoma	HOME FOR CHRISTMAS; AMBIENT CHRISTMAS [illegible]

Good fortune is for sharing



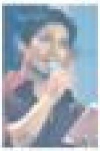


Marinel R. Cruz

Not your usual book launch

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Joseph Agcaoili

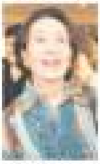
PARTY! PARTY!



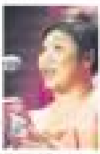
PIOLO Pascual



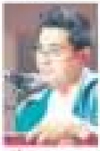
RICKY Lee with Susan Roces



GLORIA Romero



EUGENE Domingo



CESAR Montano



BOOTS Anson Roa and Gloria Romero

Merry little Christmas







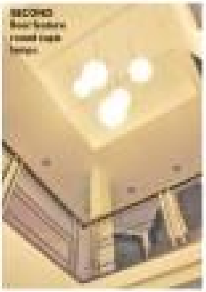


ZEN garden offers a relaxing haven.



THE DOMINGOS MOVED IN to their newly built Quezon City home barely four months ago.

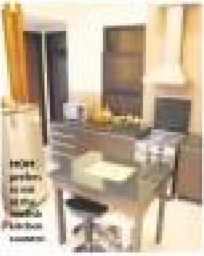
> Building, decorating their new QC home a family undertaking for the Domingos











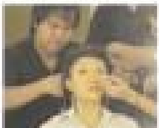




BOBI relaxes in his bedroom.

Fit, fab, flawlessly chic





Kaye Lopez

